LITHUANIAN OIL REFINERY RESUMES WORK. After a four-week shutdown due to a lack of crude oil, the Nafta refinery at Mazeikiai resumed operations on 19 December, Interfax reports. Nafta concluded an agreement with Lukoil in January to receive six million tons of oil in 1994, but only 1 million had been delivered by December. Talks with Lukoil on 1995 oil deliveries are under way, and it is thought that Lukoil will agree to ship 250,000 thousand tons a month. Nafta will likely also refine about 100,000 tons of oil received from Rosneft. These supplies will then be shipped to the Kaliningrad region. Saulius Girnius, RFE/RL, Inc.

MEETING OF BALTIC AND NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTERS. Meeting in Tallinn on 16 December, Foreign Ministers the three Baltic Foreign Ministers met with Foreign Minister Jorgen Kosmo of Norway. The ministers agreed that all major obstacles to the formation of the joint Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (BaltBat) had been removed. Tasks for the immediate future include setting up a functional system for information exchange between BaltBat and the foreign states that support it and continued English-language instruction for BaltBat peacekeepers. Kosmo officially handed over to Estonia a 36-meter Storm class ship that Norway had donated. -- Saulius Girnius, RFE/RL, Inc.

LATVIA, CHINA SIGN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, signed an agreement in Beijing on 19 December establishing most-favored-nation trade status between the two countries. The countries established diplomatic relations in 1991, but China broke them off in 1992 after Latvia took up consular relations with Taiwan. The relations were restored in July 1993 when Latvia officially cut its diplomatic ties with Taiwan. A Latvian trade exhibition involving 40 companies opened in Beijing the same day. Saulius Girnius, RFE/RL, Inc.